

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1005

By Shepard

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Whitney N. Qualls upon being crowned Junior Miss Wheelchair Tennessee 2008.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those emerging community leaders who strive to improve the quality of life for their fellow citizens while bringing inspiration, grace, and purpose to all their endeavors; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable young lady is Whitney N. Qualls, who was crowned Junior Miss Wheelchair Tennessee 2008; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected citizen of the Dickson community, Whitney Qualls was born with Spina Bifida; and

WHEREAS, despite her numerous health and medical issues, she maintains a mature and positive outlook on her disability and has stated that having a disability has presented her with opportunities to grow; and

WHEREAS, a well thought and articulate individual, Whitney Qualls was homeschooled during most of her middle and high school years, which allowed her the opportunity to experience a wide variety of subjects, travel, and participate in public service activities; having finished her coursework for high school in June of 2007, she plans to pursue an education in Business and Finance; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her academic studies, Whitney Qualls completed the Dale Carnegie Leadership Course in February of 2007, which has fostered her exceptional public speaking skills; and

WHEREAS, evincing the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors, Ms. Qualls has contributed to her community in various capacities, including working as an

administrative assistant at her father's printing business in Dickson, volunteering at Oakmont Elementary School in the computer lab, office, and classrooms, and serving as captain of the wheelchair cheerleading squad for ABLE Youth; and

WHEREAS, she has lent her time and talents to many notable causes such as MDA Lock-Up, March of Dimes, ARC, and Camp Discovery through the Tennessee Jaycees; and

WHEREAS, a second generation Rotarian, Ms. Qualls has served with acumen and alacrity as a proud member of the Rotary Club of Dickson, which she serves as Bulletin Editor and was appointed Membership Chair for the upcoming year; she has also rendered sterling service at both the local and district level of the Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards or accolades, Ms. Qualls received the Outstanding Rotarian Award in July of 2007; and

WHEREAS, a public-spirited individual of the highest order, Ms. Qualls is assisting in the promotion and planning of the Second Annual Civil War Costume Ball, with proceeds benefiting ABLE Youth and St. Paul Church; and

WHEREAS, exhibiting remarkable leadership skills, Ms. Qualls serves as secretary on the Board of Directors for the advocacy group Dickson County Developmental Services; and

WHEREAS, she ably serves as the treasurer and chaplain for the Sallie Sizemore Chapter of the Tennessee Order of the Confederate Rose, and is a member of the Society of Black Roses, which portrays the widows and mourners of the 1860s; a reenactor since she was eight years old, Ms. Qualls is associated with the Third Kentucky Orphan Brigade; and

WHEREAS, she is an active and devout member of her church, which she has served faithfully for many years and in numerous capacities, including caring for children in the Spanish Outreach program and participating in the church's youth group, chorus, numerous mission trips, including the Family Bible School program, and the annual Girls Leadership and Enrichment Program; and

WHEREAS, evidencing a strong commitment to public service and good citizenship from early on, Whitney Qualls began her journey of educating others about being in a wheelchair and

using a walker at the tender age of five; not to be deterred by her disability, she participated in several Little Miss Dickson County pageants placing first runner-up and second runner-up; and

WHEREAS, she worked with younger children in wheelchair sports, served as a poster child for Camp Discovery, and conducted public service announcements with Tanya Tucker and former Tennessee Governor Ned Ray McWherter; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Qualls has consistently served as a role model for others and projected a positive example of a young girl with a disability; she took modeling lessons as a first grader at the AIMS Academy in Belle Meade and worked as a professional model for several years participating in photo shoots, with and without her walker and wheelchair, for Methodist Publishing Company, Service Merchandise, and Castner Knots; and

WHEREAS, Whitney Qualls's parents, Dale E. and Carolyn C. Qualls, are justifiably proud of this remarkable young lady and her many accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Whitney Qualls has attained excellence in many diverse fields of human endeavor at a young age, from scholastic achievements, advocacy, and community outreach to pageant competition, and she should be specially praised and recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Whitney N. Qualls upon her recent coronation as Junior Miss Wheelchair Tennessee 2008, thank her for her tireless efforts as an advocate for people with disabilities, and wish her much continued success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.